

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 10090 161244Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9100
INFO USMISSION NATO
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S E C R E T BONN 10090

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR USDEL SALT II

DEPART: PASS TO SECDEF WASHDC, USNMR SHAPE, CINC EUR
YAIHINGEN

MILITARY ADDEES TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MNUC, PFOR, NPG, GW
SUBJECT: NPG: FRG EMPHASIS ON CRUISE MISSILE ASPECTS
OF TALKS

1. AN FMOD MILITARY OFFICER WHO ATTENDED THE OTTAWA NPG
HAS EMPHASIZED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THE FRG'S "GREAT
INTEREST" IN CRUISE MISSILES AS THEY RELATE TO SALT,
MAKING THE POINT THAT SUCH MISSILES REPRESENT A GOOD
POLITICAL LEVER WHICH THE U.S. SHOULD NOT BE TOO QUICK
TO GIVE UP. THE OFFICER MADE THIS OBSERVATION IN
CONNECTION WITH THE SOVIET STRATEGIC THREAT AGAINST
EUROPE AS REPRESENTED BY THEIR MR/IRBM'S, SS-20'S, AND
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BACKFIRES. THE OFFICER EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT, IF THE
U.S. INTENDED TO MAKE COMPROMISES IN SALT ON CRUISE
MISSILES, THEN THE RUSSIANS SHOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO
MAKE COMPROMISES ON THEIR SYSTEMS TARGETED AGAINST
EUROPE. IN EFFECT, SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE AND INTERMEDIATE-
RANGE SYSTEMS MUST ALSO BE THROWN INTO THE HOPPER.

2. ANOTHER POINT WHICH THE OFFICER MADE WAS THAT THE U.S. SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO COMPARE WEAPONS SYSTEMS WHICH WERE NOT COMPARABLE. THE FRG APPRECIATED THE U.S. POSITION THAT FBS WAS NOT A PART OF SALT, BUT CRUISE MISSILES WITH LIMITED RANGES WERE, IN EFFECT, FBS. BY INCLUDING SUCH SYSTEMS IN SALT, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BEAT OFF RUSSIAN ARGUMENTS THAT OTHER FBS SYSTEMS SHOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED. THE OFFICER SAID SALT WAS NOT THE RIGHT FORUM FOR FBS.

3. WHEN ASKED WHAT TYPE OF FORUM WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR CONSIDERING CRUISE MISSILES, THE OFFICIAL RESPONDED THAT OBVIOUSLY THE EUROPEANS WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED, WITH THE FRENCH PLAYING A KEY ROLE. THE OFFICER REFERRED TO GENERAL MERY'S RECENT SPEECH AND THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE MISSILES BY THE FRENCH. THE OFFICER SAID THE FRG MIGHT CONSIDER RAISING THE CRUISE MISSILE ISSUE WITH THE FRENCH AT AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION. (COMMENT: WE ASSUME THIS WOULD MEAN AT THE NEXT LEBER-BOURGES MEETING).

4. HE THEN STATED THAT THE GERMANS HAD NO INTEREST IN ACQUIRING CRUISE MISSILES, BUT RATHER THAT THE FRG BELIEVED NATO OPTIONS SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN.

5. THE OFFICER ALSO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN WITH THE U.S. CRUISE MISSILE PAPER, STATING FRANKLY THAT IT APPEARED TO THE GERMANS THAT MORE STRESS SHOULD HAVE BEEN LAID ON THE ROLE WHICH CRUISE MISSILES COULD PLAY IN
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ENHANCING ALLIANCE SECURITY.
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED SECDEF, USNMR SHAPE, CINCEUR,
YAIHINGEN.

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NNN

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